



Bureau of Public Health Statistics

Arizona Department of Health Services

150 North 18th Ave, Suite 550
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3248
(602) 542-8064
(602) 542-2940 FAX

Internet: www.hs.state.az.us/plan/crr/index.htm

Janet Napolitano, Governor
January Contreras, Acting Director

Date: December 15, 2008

To: All Users of Public Release Arizona Hospital Emergency Department Discharge Data

From: Donna Courtney, Hospital Data Manager, Bureau of Public Health Statistics

Subject: Changes to Arizona data for discharges January 1, 2008 and later

Under Arizona law, the rules (Arizona Administrative Code) under which hospital discharge records are collected must be reviewed every five years for appropriateness and accuracy. Following this mandatory review, major revisions were made to the data reporting requirements in 2007. These changes were implemented for all discharges commencing January 1, 2008.

As a result of the changes, the ASCII public record length is now 1616 characters. New data elements include: Revenue Code Categories, Patient Marital Status & Race, Patient Reason for Visit (aka Chief Complaint), and Physician information. The number of Diagnosis, Procedure and E Code fields have been expanded.

This reporting period comprises the first collection of data under the revised rules. As is evidenced by the tardiness of this release, this reporting period was fraught with challenges for the hospitals, their vendors and this agency. As a result, we do expect some negative impact to the quality of this data set compared to recent prior years. The experience gained during this period will be used to make refinements to the reporting requirements and to improve and expand our auditing processes for future reporting periods.

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns regarding the data.